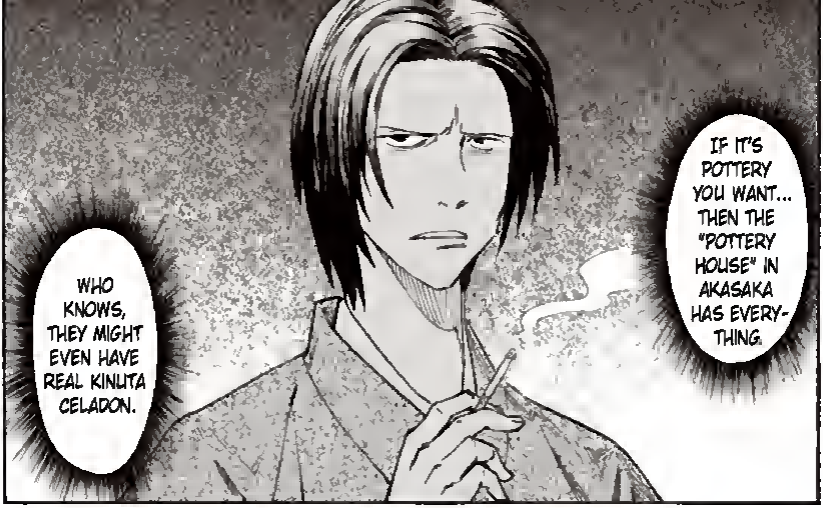
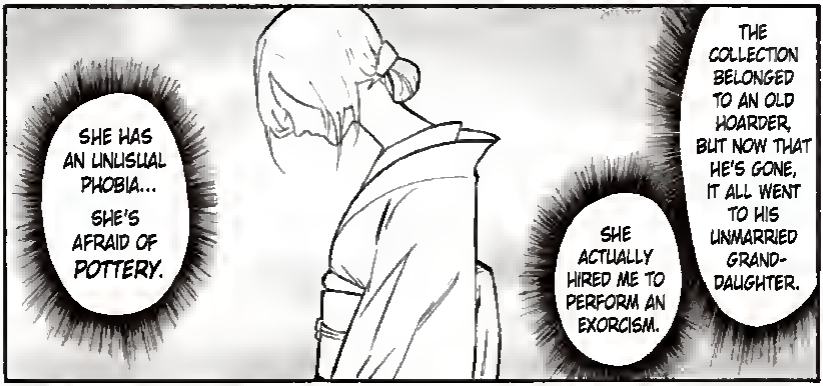

IF IT'S POTTERY YOU WANT... THEN THE "POTTERY HOUSE" IN AKASAKA HAS EVERY-THING.
WHO KNOWS, THEY MIGHT EVEN HAVE REAL KINUTA CELADON.

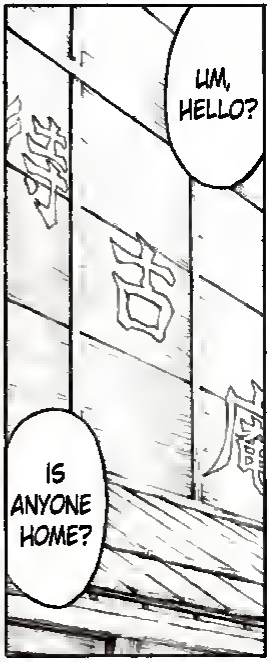

THE COLLECTION BELONGED TO AN OLD HOARDER, BUT NOW THAT HE'S GONE, IT ALL WENT TO HIS UNMARRIED GRAND-DAUGHTER.
SHE ACTUALLY HIRED ME TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM.
SHE HAS AN UNUSUAL PHOBIA... SHE'S AFRAID OF POTTERY.

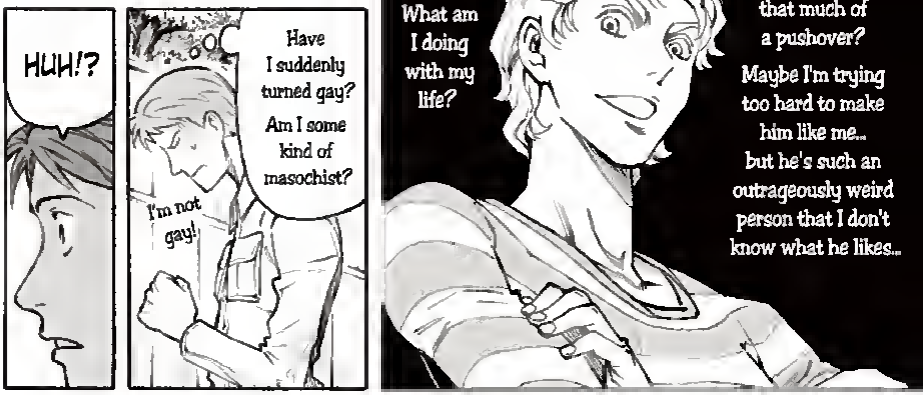
Chapter 2

NOTE A fear of pottery may seem bizzare, but it's actually a form of trypophobia - the fear of clusters of holes. This is one of the most common fears, affecting 15% of the population. The scientific theory is that clusters of holes resemble diseased flesh or the patterns on poisonous animals. It gives many people the heebiejeebies. Google it!

Chapter 2

NOTE The sign says "Machikoan Antiques."



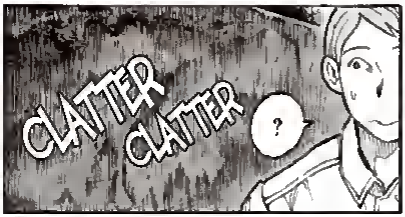

HUH!?
Have I suddenly turned gay?
Am I some kind of masochist?
I'm not gay!
What am I doing with my life?
Am I really that much of a pushover?
Maybe I'm trying too hard to make him like me... but he's such an outrageously weird person that I don't know what he likes...

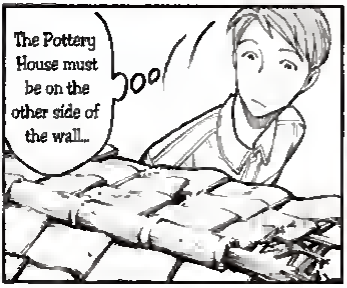
OH CRAP... WHERE AM I?
.....

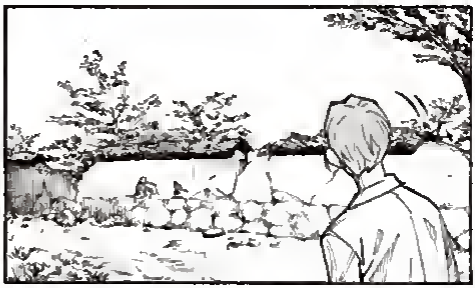
Aka-saka...?
Really?
OIKAWA RESIDENCE
AKASAKA OMOTEMACHI 1-CHOME DISTRICT, TOKYO
I'm lost!!
GUH
Aoyama 3-chome Station was back that way, right?
AHHH!
There's a sign!

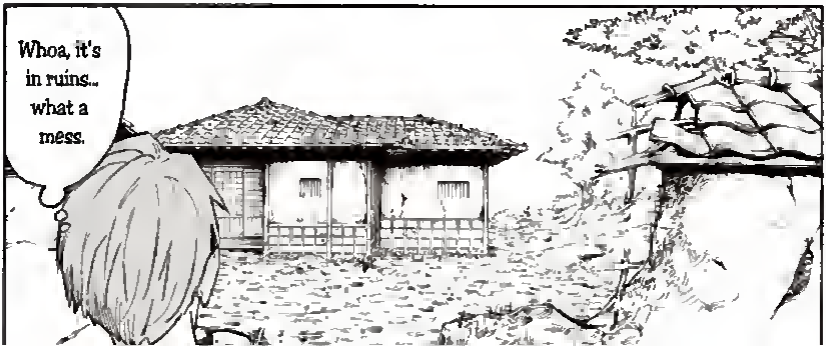
It must be around here...
Akasaka 1-chome
Yamada Residence
That "Pottery House" place was in Akasaka, right?
Just go to the end of this street and turn right...
Eh? Oh, you must mean the Pottery House!
OH... I'M LOOKING FOR A PLACE WITH POTS...
Sorry, I'm a bit deaf.
UM, EXCUSE ME... I'M LOOKING FOR YAMADA YOJIROU'S HOUSE...
NOT EXACTLY... I'M LOOKING FOR THE "POTTERY HOUSE!"
Pots? Like flower-pots?

I don't know anything about pottery...
huff
huff
Why am I doing this?

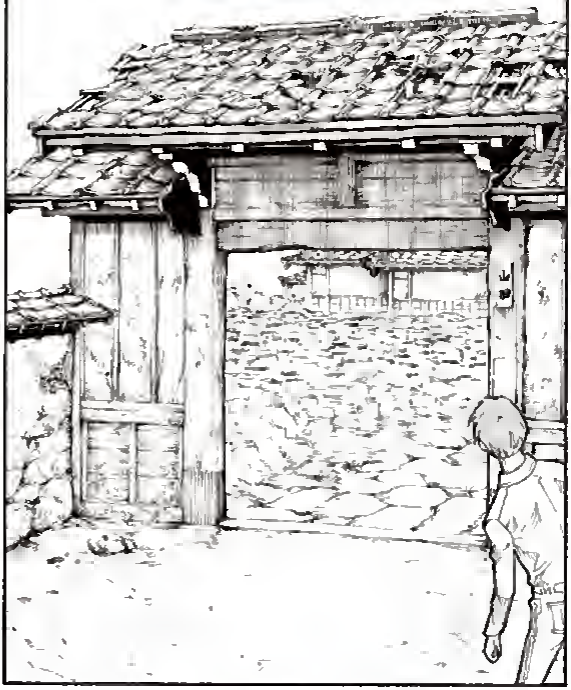

CLATTER
CLATTER
?

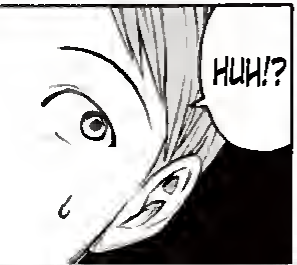

The Pottery House must be on the other side of the wall...

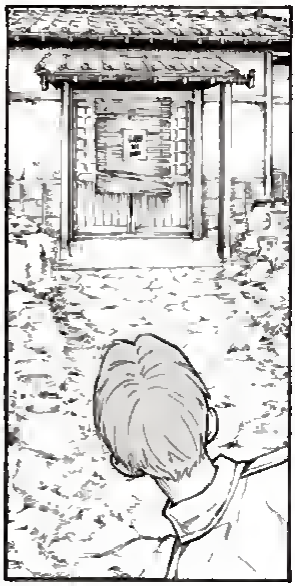



Whoa, it's in ruins... what a mess.

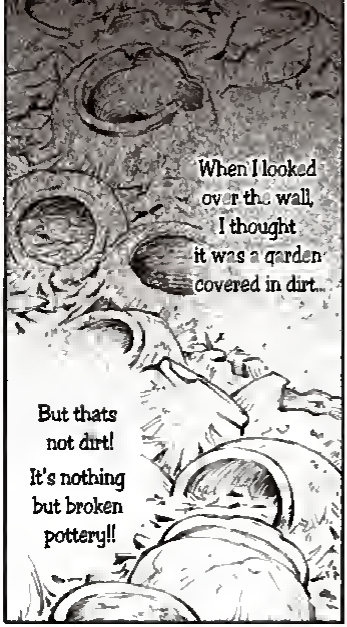
NOTE Sign: "Yamada."







NOTE After a Japanese funeral, the family will place signs or white paper lanterns outside the house to let neighbors know that someone has died. The mourning period traditionally lasts for 49 days.


When I looked over the wall, I thought it was a garden covered in dirt...
But thats not dirt!
It's nothing but broken pottery!!

IS THAT... POTTERY!?
EH!?
WHAT THE...

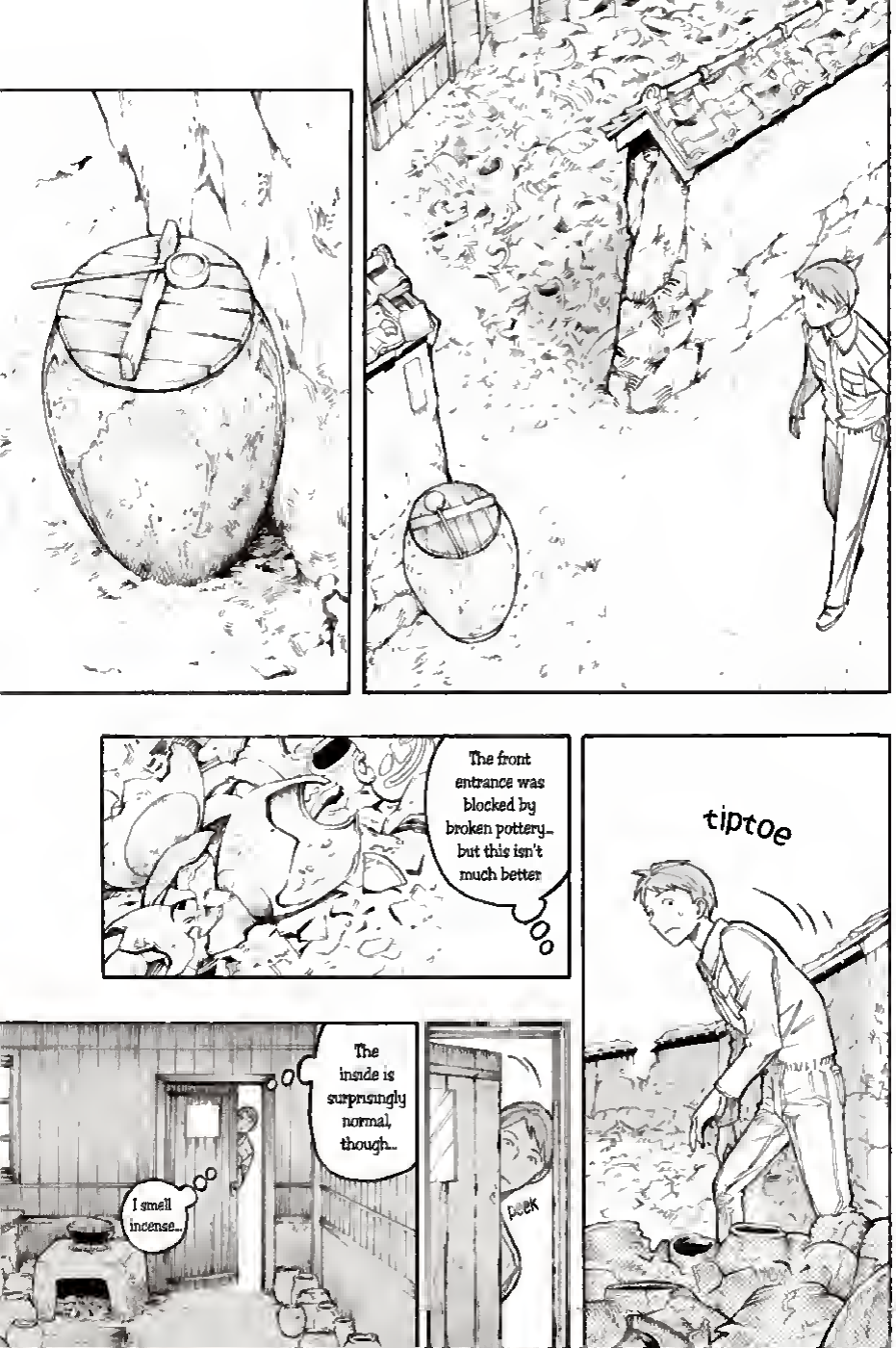
HUH?

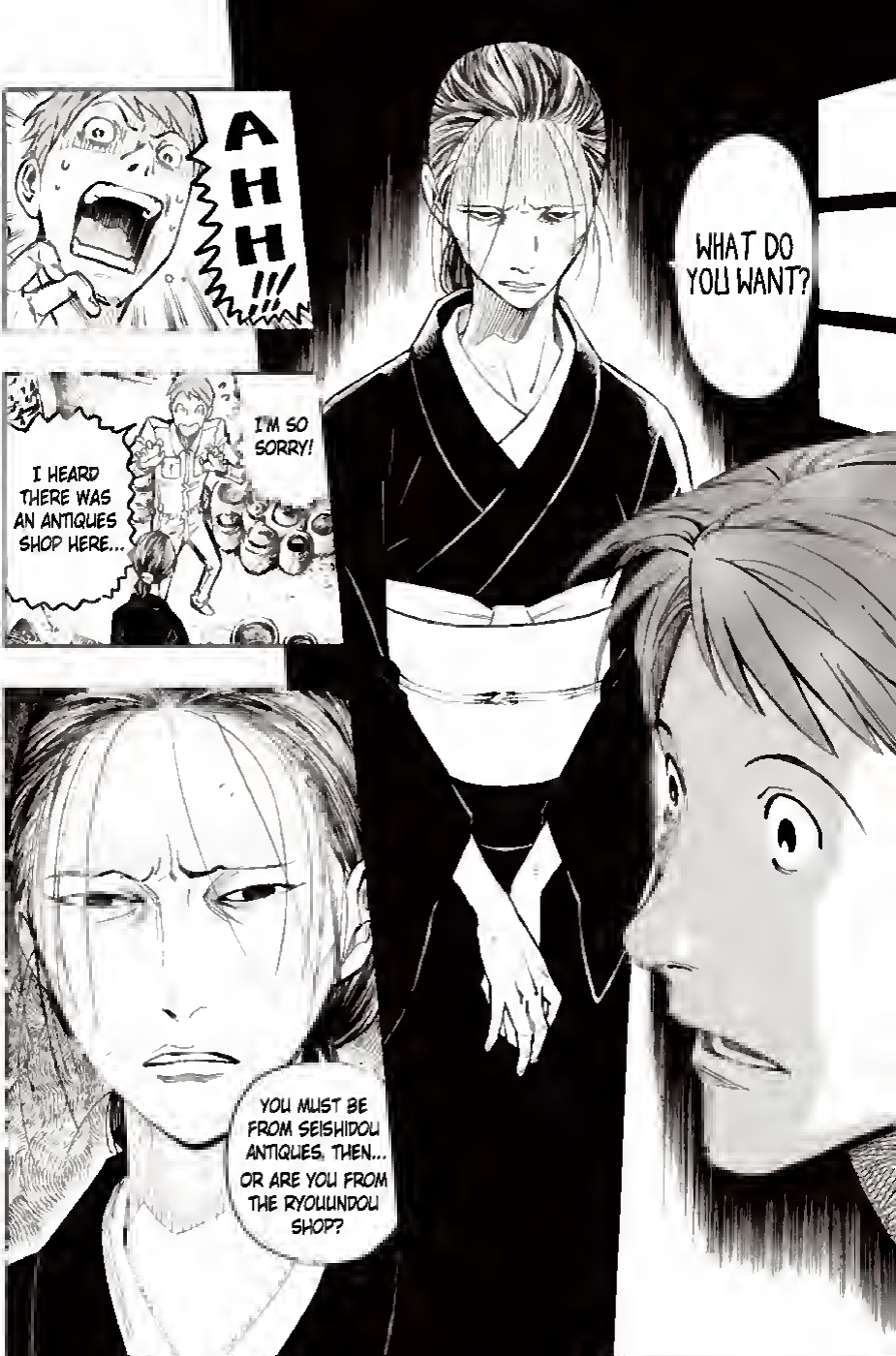
I... I SHOULD GO...

.....

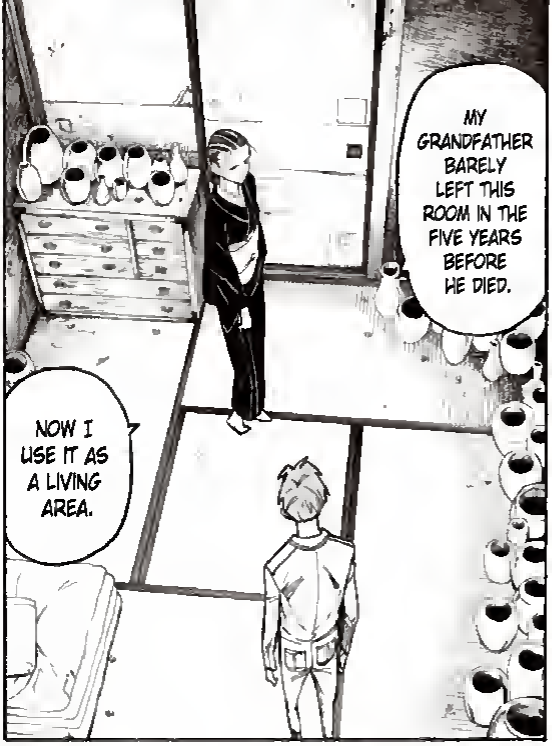
THERE'S A BACK ENTRANCE?
.....
I GUESS THERE MUST BE.

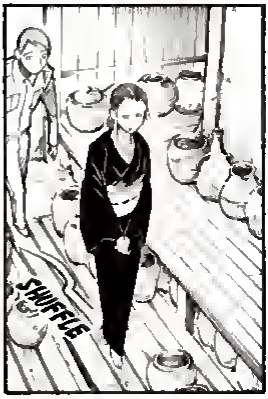
VISITORS:
PLEASE USE BACK ENTRANCE

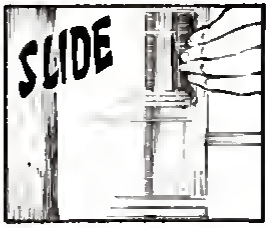

The front entrance was blocked by broken pottery... but this isn't much better
tiptoe
The inside is surprisingly normal, though...
I smell incense...
peek

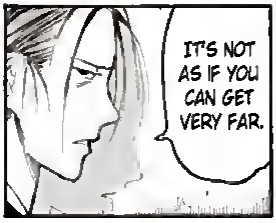

AHH!!!
I'M SO SORRY!
I HEARD THERE WAS AN ANTIQUES SHOP HERE...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU MUST BE FROM SEISHIDOU ANTIQUES, THEN... OR ARE YOU FROM THE RYOUUNDOU SHOP?

DON'T TELL ME... YOU'RE A DEBT COLLECTOR FROM MINEGISHI FINANCE...
...AN AMATEUR? ARE YOU REALLY IN THE ANTIQUES BUSINESS?
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BUY?
OH, I'M NOT FROM EITHER OF THOSE STORES! I JUST WANTED TO LOOK AT THE POTTERY! I'M AFRAID I DONT KNOW MUCH ABOUT CERAMICS... I'M JUST AN AMATEUR.
I'm a bad liar...
ACTUALLY, I'M AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER! BUT I GOT HURT ON THE JOB, SO I THOUGHT I'D TRY A NEW CAREER... I JUST STARTED WORKING AT THE MACHIKOAN ANTIQUES STORE IN AOYAMA...
YOU WON'T FIND ANYTHING OF VALUE HERE... BUT WHATEVER, IF YOU WANT TO POKE AROUND, I DON'T CARE.
DO WHAT YOU WANT.
So she's the new owner... Yamada Sue.
SO WHEN IT COMES TO ANTIQUES, I'M REALLY JUST A BEGINNER... BUT I'M ALWAYS TRYING TO PRACTICE MY APPRAISING SKILLS...
I'LL SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE
SHOCK
EVERYTHING HERE IS WORTHLESS CRAP.


MY GRANDFATHER BARELY LEFT THIS ROOM IN THE FIVE YEARS BEFORE HE DIED.
NOW I USE IT AS A LIVING AREA.


SHUFFLE

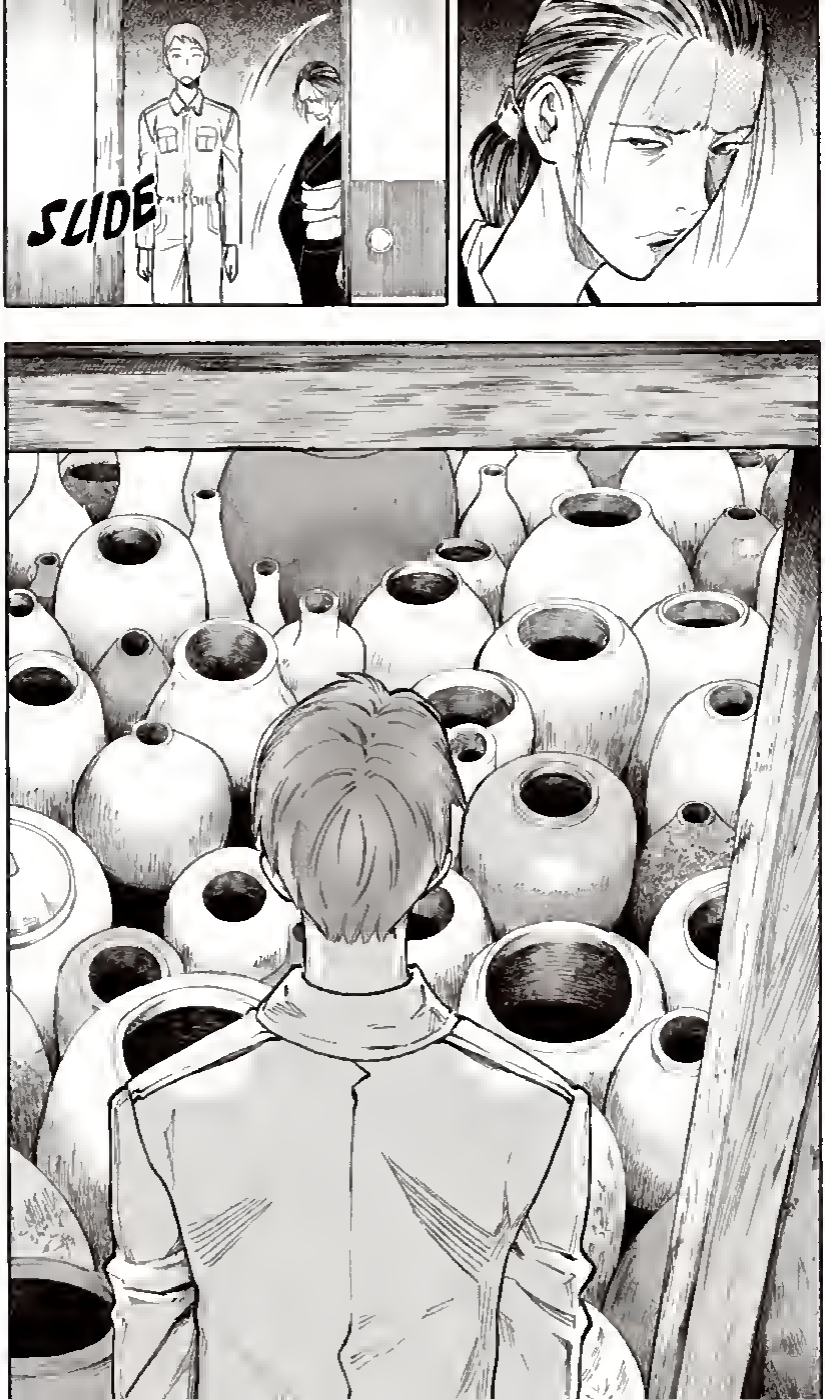

SLIDE

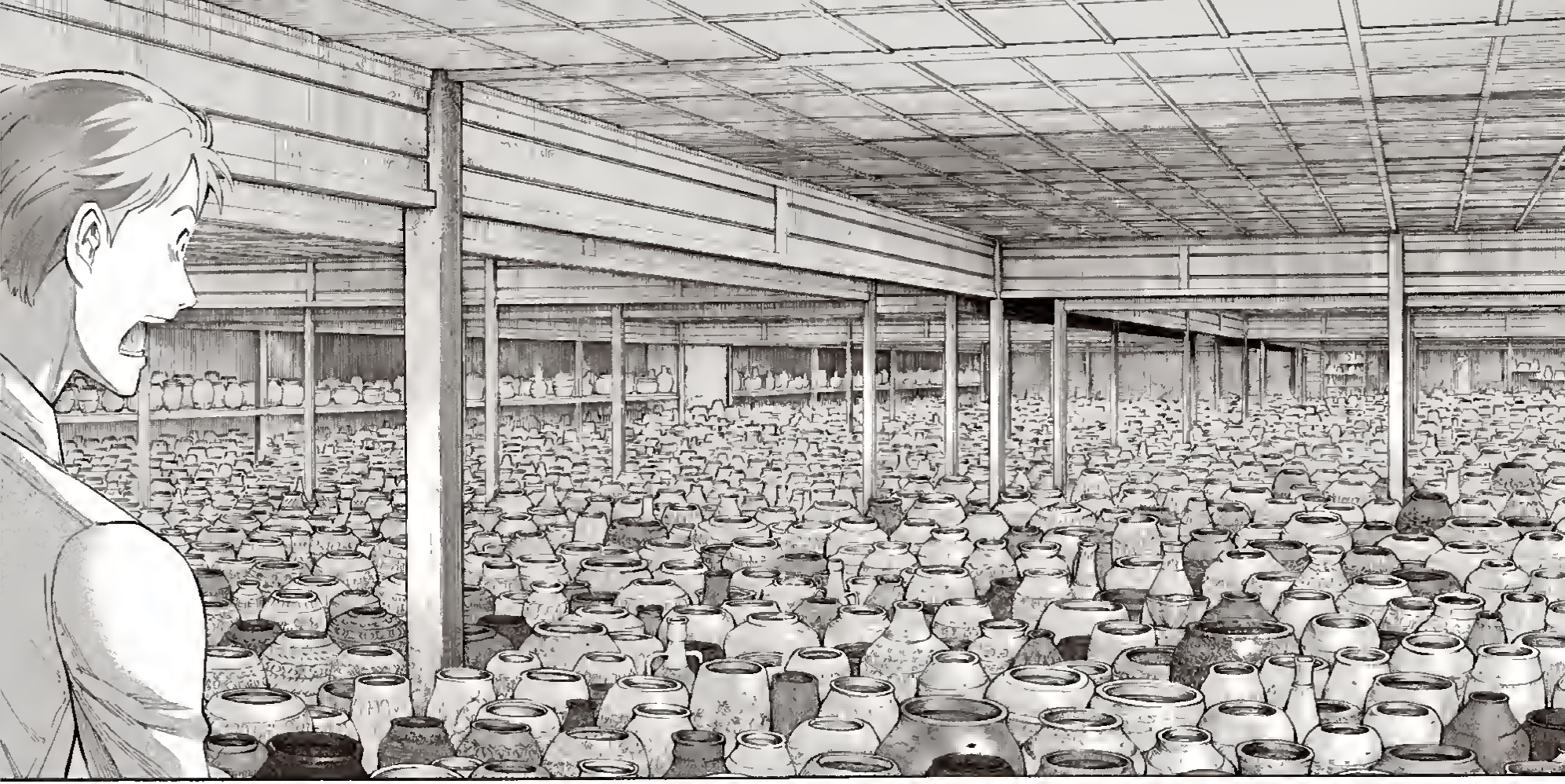

IT'S NOT AS IF YOU CAN GET VERY FAR.

OKAY ...
I guess it can't hurt to look.

THERE'S A STORAGE ROOM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR...
YOU CAN TAKE A LOOK IF YOU WANT.
I'D PREFER NOT TO GO INSIDE.

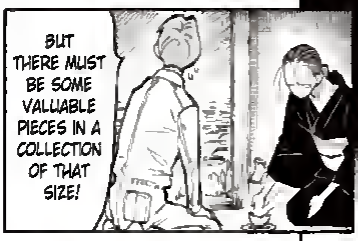
It must be nice to have such a spacious house, even if she is all alone...


SLIDE



That's crazy!!
There must be thousands... no, tens of thousands of pots in there!

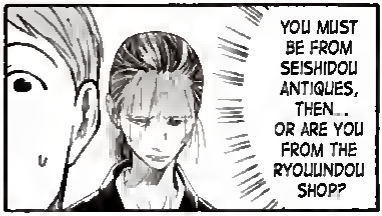
WHOA...
I wouldn't last three days in this hoarder hellhole!


BUT THERE MUST BE SOME VALUABLE PIECES IN A COLLECTION OF THAT SIZE!

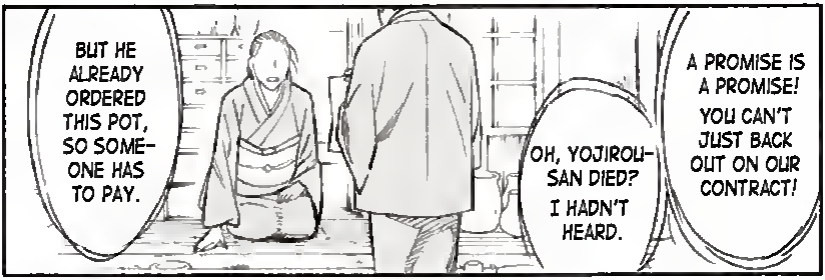
...AFTER MY GRANDFATHER DIED, SEVERAL ANTIQUES DEALERS CAME TO LOOK...
BUT THEY WOULDN'T BUY ANYTHING.
THEY SAID HIS COLLECTION WAS SO WORTHLESS THAT I'D HAVE TO PAY SOMEONE TO GET RID OF IT.
OH... I SEE...

That must be her pottery-obsessed grandfather, Yamada Yojirou..

BUT THEY WEREN'T COMING TO BUY...
THEY WERE COMING TO SELL ME MORE POTS!

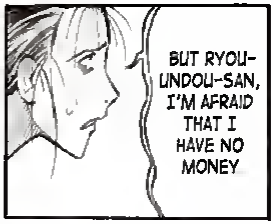

YOU MUST BE FROM SEISHIDOU ANTIQUES, THEN... OR ARE YOU FROM THE RYOUUNDOU SHOP?

YES ...
BUT EARLIER, IT SOUNDED LIKE YOU WERE EXPECTING SOMEONE FROM AN ANTIQUES STORE...

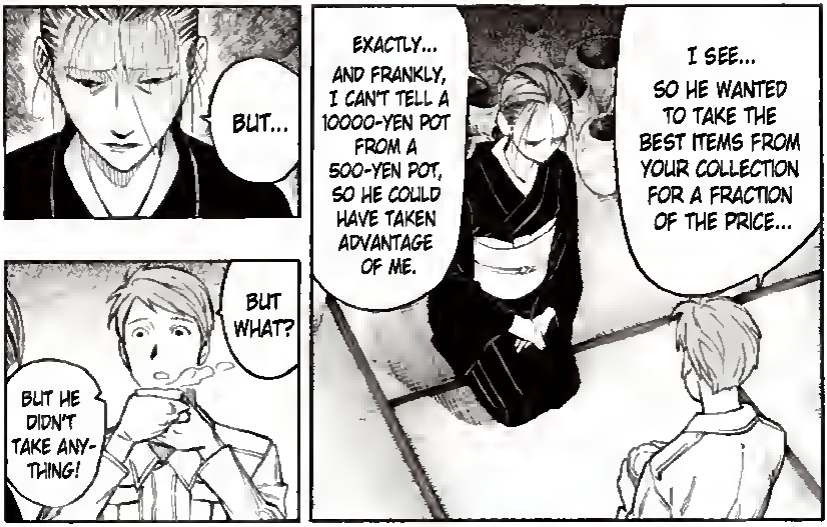

BUT HE ALREADY ORDERED THIS POT, SO SOME-ONE HAS TO PAY.
OH, YOJIROU-SAN DIED? I HADN'T HEARD.
A PROMISE IS A PROMISE! YOU CAN'T JUST BACK OUT ON OUR CONTRACT!

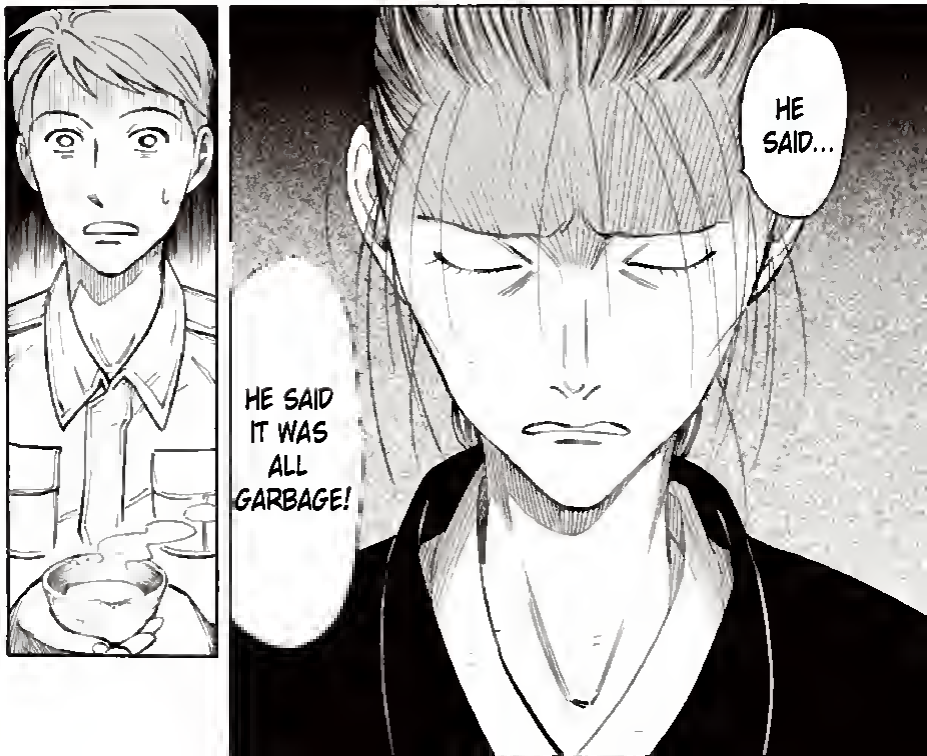
OH... WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT WOULD BE ALRIGHT...

WHY DON'T I BUY A FEW THINGS FROM YOUR COLLECTION,
AND THEN YOU CAN USE THE MONEY TO PAY FOR THIS ONE?


BUT RYOU-UNDOU-SAN, I'M AFRAID THAT I HAVE NO MONEY

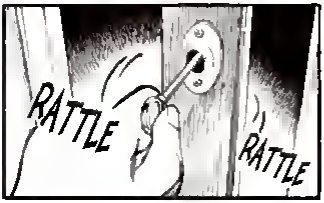
OH, THAT'S A SHAME! MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU.


I SEE...
SO HE WANTED TO TAKE THE BEST ITEMS FROM YOUR COLLECTION FOR A FRACTION OF THE PRICE...
EXACTLY...
AND FRANKLY, I CAN'T TELL A 10000-YEN POT FROM A 500-YEN POT, SO HE COULD HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF ME.
BUT...
BUT WHAT?
BUT HE DIDN'T TAKE ANY-THING!


HE SAID...
HE SAID IT WAS ALL GARBAGE!

BANG
BANG
BANG
YAMADA-SAN, ARE YOU THERE!?
YAMADA-SAN!
EEP!
YAMADA-SAN!
BANG
BANG
BANG
YAMADA-SAN!!
huff
huff
Oh good, Imagawa-san is home!
!
huff
huff

!


RATTLE
RATTLE

huff
SORRY, BUT COULD I HAVE SOME WATER?
huff

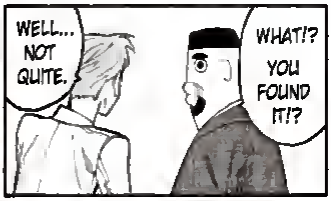
DIP

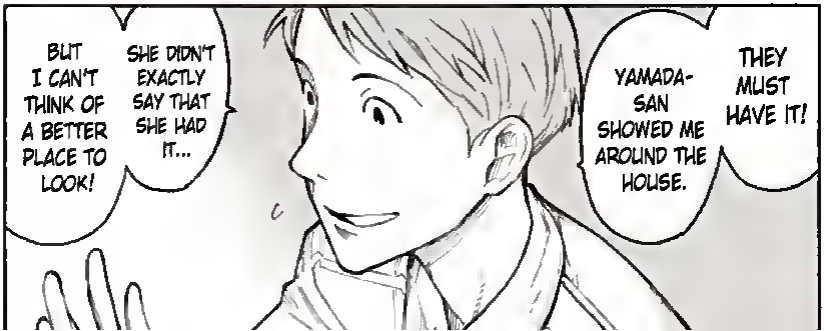
OH MY, I JUST GOT HOME!
I SAW YOUR LETTER...
PLEASE, COME IN!

DID YOU MANAGE TO FIND ANY KINUTA CELADON?
I'M AFRAID NOT... THE FEW PEOPLE WHO OWN REAL KINUTA CELADON AREN'T WILLING TO SELL IT FOR ANY PRICE.
IT'S LITERALLY PRICELESS.

YOU WENT TO THE POTTERY HOUSE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
THEY HAVE KINUTA CELADON?

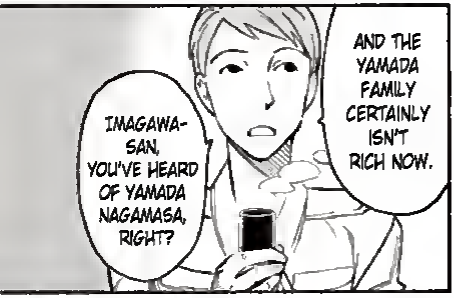
IT'S OKAY, I KNOW WHERE WE CAN GET SOME!!

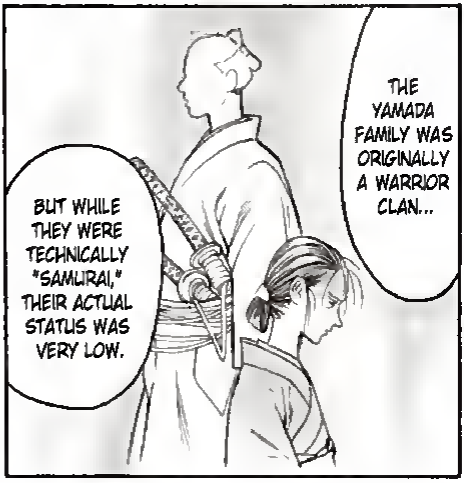

WELL... NOT QUITE.
WHAT!? YOU FOUND IT!?


BUT I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER PLACE TO LOOK!
SHE DIDN'T EXACTLY SAY THAT SHE HAD IT...
YAMADA-SAN SHOWED ME AROUND THE HOUSE.
THEY MUST HAVE IT!

I WAS IN THE AREA, SO I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY...
WELL, UM...
hmm..
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE...
WELL, THANK YOU.
BOW
I SEE...
hmm
ANY-WAY...
THERE ARE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF POTS AND VASES IN THAT PLACE
SURELY THEY'LL HAVE SOME KINUTA CELADON!
I WONDER WHY THE LATE YAMADA YOJIROU-SAN WAS SO OBSESSED WITH COLLECTING POTTERY...?
MAYBE IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH KINUTA CELADON.

NOTE Yamada Nagamasa (1590-1630) was a famous Japanese adventurer and pirate who established a Japanese colony in Thailand. The colony was inhabited by merchants, political dissidents and exiled Christians. After Yamada Nagamasa's assassination during a Thai political conflict, Japan ceased all relations with Thailand and cut itself off completely from the rest of the world.

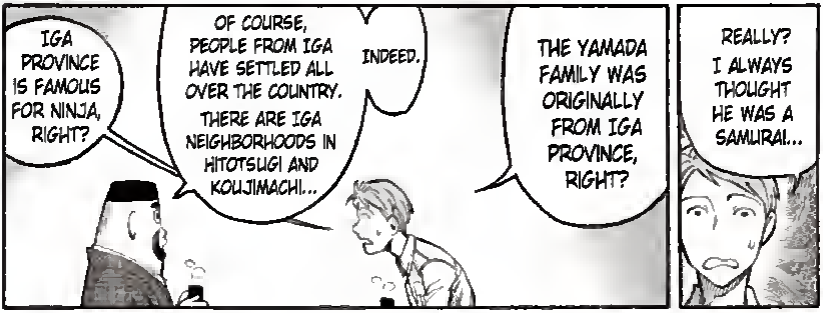


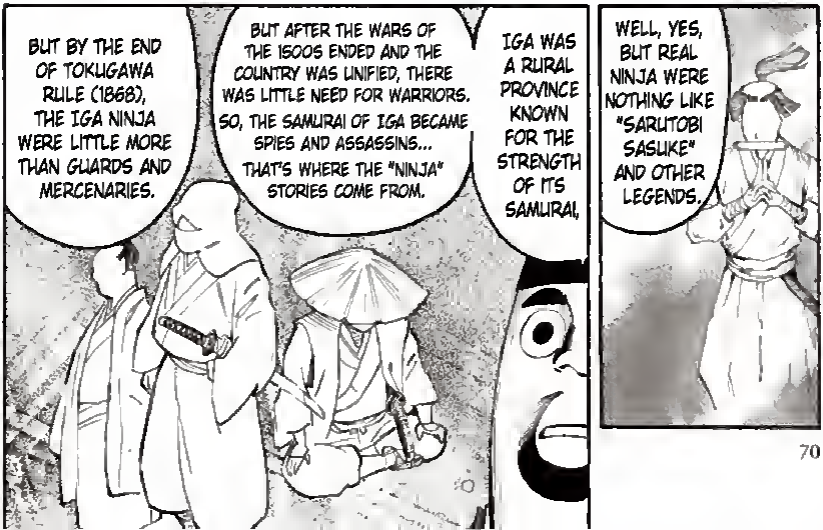

THE YAMADA FAMILY WAS ORIGINALLY A WARRIOR CLAN...
BUT WHILE THEY WERE TECHNICALLY "SAMURAI," THEIR ACTUAL STATUS WAS VERY LOW.

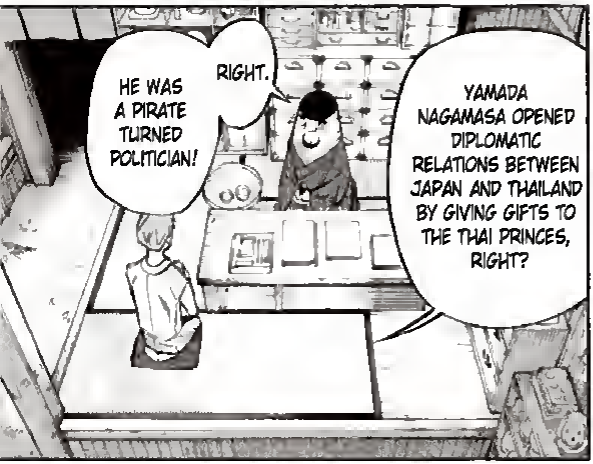
YAMADA HELPED QUASH A REBELLION AGAINST THE KING OF SIAM, AND SO HE WAS REWARDED BY BEING MADE RULER OF AN ENTIRE PROVINCE.
HOWEVER, HE WAS KILLED DURING A BATTLE FOR SUCCESSION.
HE ESTABLISHED THE FIRST JAPANESE SETTLEMENT IN THE KINGDOM OF SIAM, RIGHT?

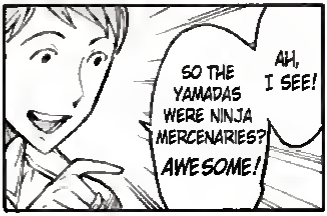
NOTE Siam = modern-day Thailand.

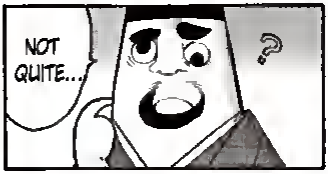
YAMADA NAGAMASA WAS A PIRATE, NOT A SAMURAI.
BEFORE HE TRAVELED TO THAILAND, HE WAS MERELY A LOWLY SERVANT OF LORD OKUBO OF NUMAZU.
HE DEVELOPED SOMETHING OF A REPUTATION AS AN ADVENTURER.
BUT HE WAS NEITHER A WARRIOR NOR A SAMURAI.
HE WAS A MERCHANT...
AND HIS DESCENDENTS ARE STILL MERCHANTS TODAY.

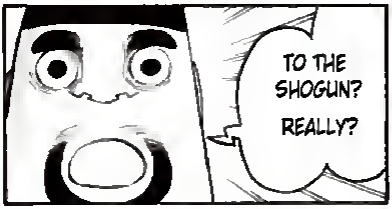

REALLY? I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS A SAMURAI...
THE YAMADA FAMILY WAS ORIGINALLY FROM IGA PROVINCE, RIGHT?
INDEED.
OF COURSE, PEOPLE FROM IGA HAVE SETTLED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
THERE ARE IGA NEIGHBORHOODS IN HITOTSUGI AND KOUJIMACHI...
IGA PROVINCE IS FAMOUS FOR NINJA, RIGHT?

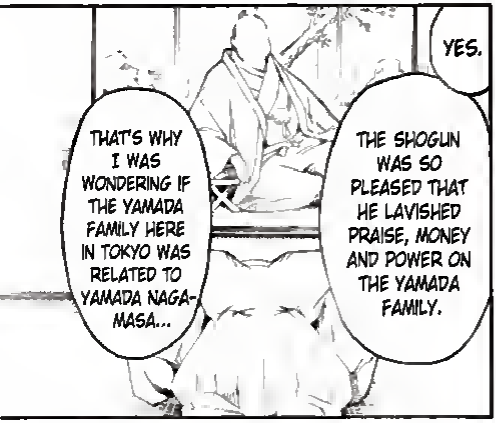

WELL, YES, BUT REAL NINJA WERE NOTHING LIKE "SARUTOBI SASUKE" AND OTHER LEGENDS.
IGA WAS A RURAL PROVINCE KNOWN FOR THE STRENGTH OF IT'S SAMURAI.
BUT AFTER THE WARS OF THE 1500S ENDED AND THE COUNTRY WAS UNIFIED, THERE WAS LITTLE NEED FOR WARRIORS.
SO, THE SAMURAI OF IGA BECAME SPIES AND ASSASSINS...
THAT'S WHERE THE "NINJA" STORIES COME FROM.
BUT BY THE END OF TOKUGAWA RULE (1868), THE IGA NINJA WERE LITTLE MORE THAN GUARDS AND MERCENARIES.


YAMADA NAGAMASA OPENED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THAILAND BY GIVING GIFTS TO THE THAI PRINCES, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
HE WAS A PIRATE TURNED POLITICIAN!


AH, I SEE!
SO THE YAMADAS WERE NINJA MERCENARIES? AWESOME!

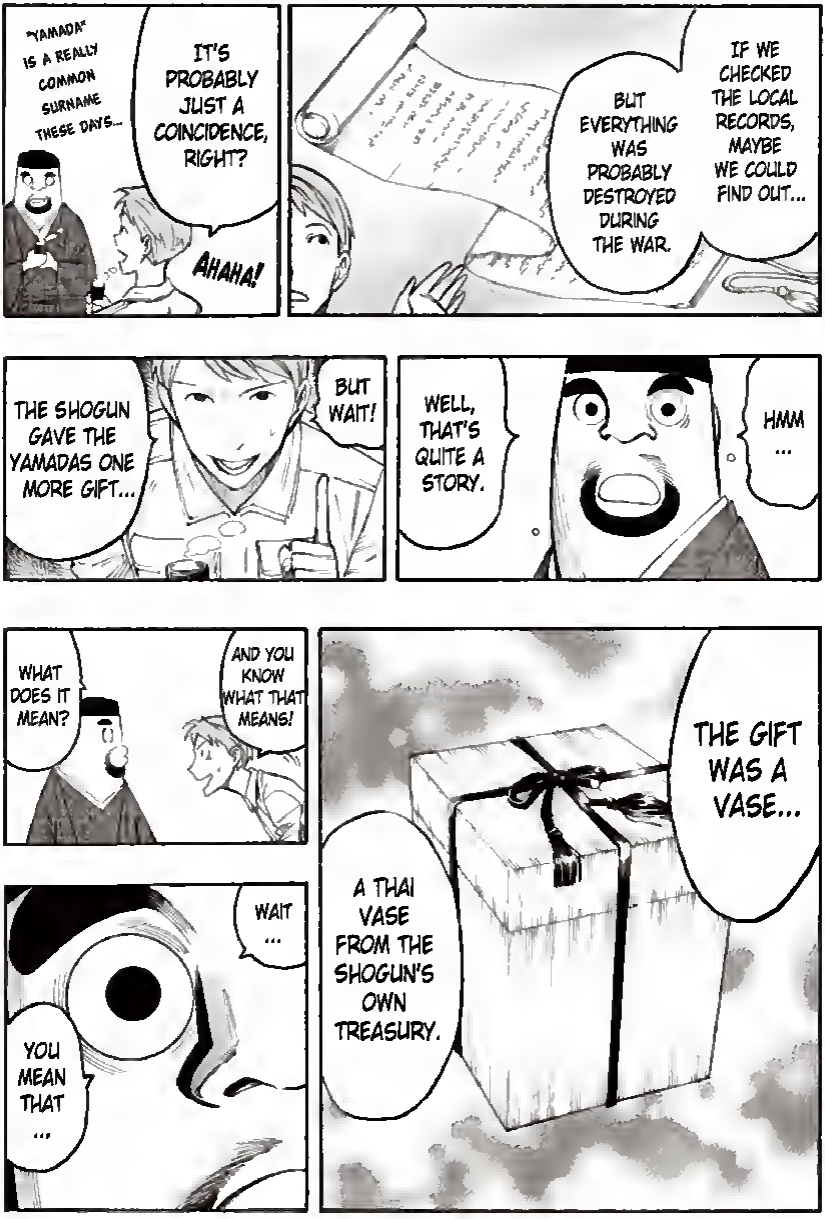

?
NOT QUITE...


TO THE SHOGUN?
REALLY?


YES.
THE SHOGUN WAS SO PLEASED THAT HE LAVISHED PRAISE, MONEY AND POWER ON THE YAMADA FAMILY.
THAT'S WHY I WAS WONDERING IF THE YAMADA FAMILY HERE IN TOKYO WAS RELATED TO YAMADA NAGA-MASA...

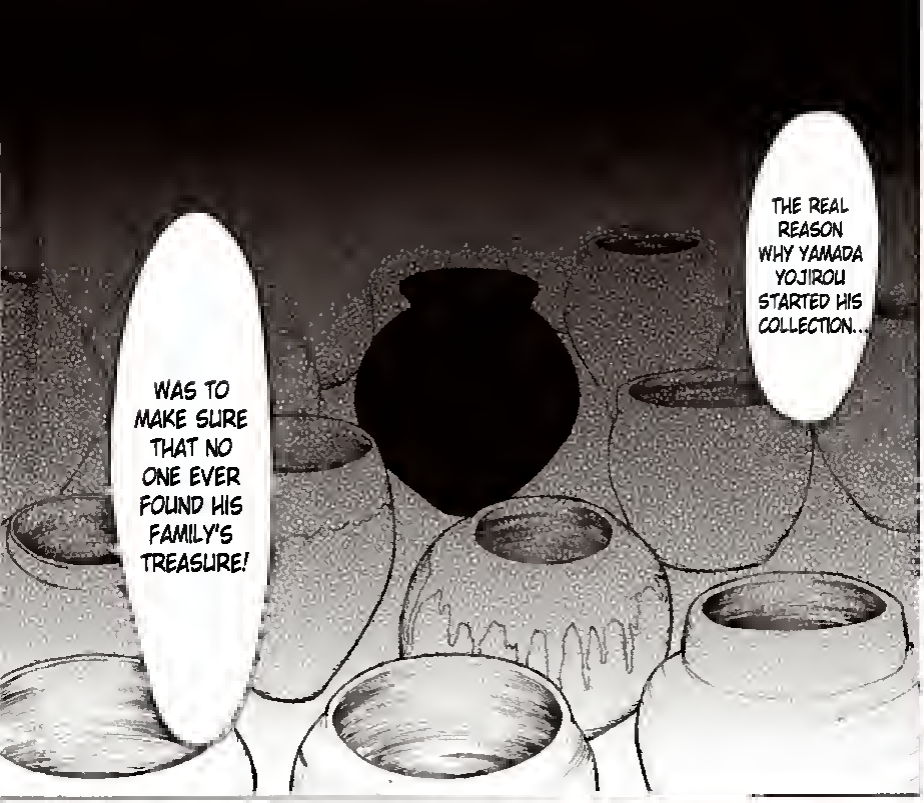
YAMADA NAGAMASA USED GIFTS TO BRIBE HIS WAY INTO FAVOR WITH THE THAI ROYALTY...
AND IN RETURN, HE RECIEVED GIFTS FROM THEM AS WELL.
HE BROUGHT THE GIFTS BACK TO JAPAN GAVE THEM TO THE SHOGUN...

NOTE In the old days, only samurai and wealthy merchants had surnames, so "Yamada" was an uncommon name. But during the 19th century, people from the lower classes were able to choose their own surnames (usually based on their hometown or their occupation). 'Yamada' means "mountain field," so it became a very common surname for farmers.

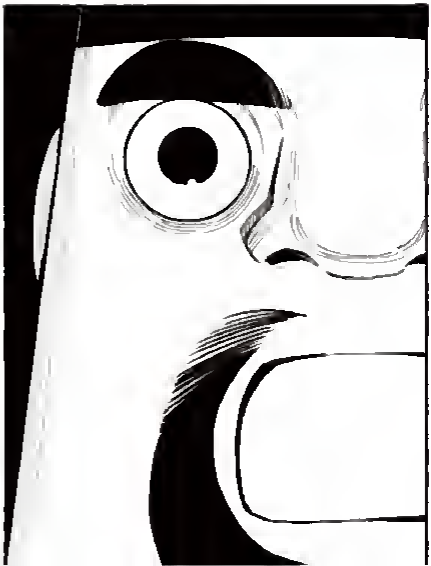

"YAMADA" IS A REALLY COMMON SURNAME THESE DAYS...
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A COINCIDENCE, RIGHT?
AHAHA!
IF WE CHECKED THE LOCAL RECORDS, MAYBE WE COULD FIND OUT...
BUT EVERYTHING WAS PROBABLY DESTROYED DURING THE WAR.
BUT WAIT!
THE SHOGUN GAVE THE YAMADAS ONE MORE GIFT...
HMM ...
WELL, THAT'S QUITE A STORY.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
THE GIFT WAS A VASE...
A THAI VASE FROM THE SHOGUN'S OWN TREASURY.
WAIT ...
YOU MEAN THAT ...

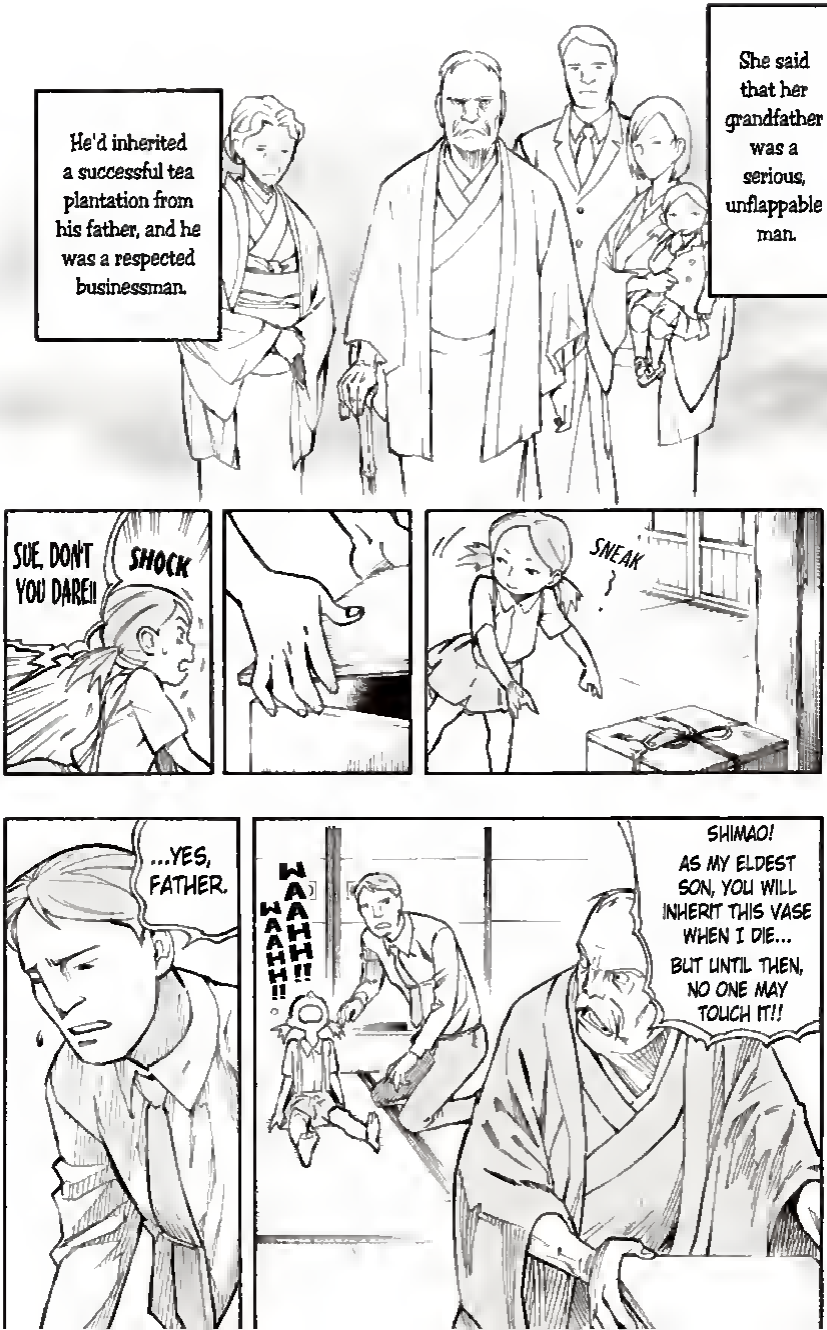
OMG
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
SPUTTER
SPUTTER
SPUTTER
THAT'S JUST TOO...
OH FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE...
WELL... THERE WERE A LOT OF POTS.
...DID YOU SEE IT?
SPUTTER
YOU WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT REAL KINUTA CELADON LOOKS LIKE, WOULD YOU?
THE YAMADAS WERE GIVEN A PIECE OF KINUTA CELADON.
THAT'S RIGHT.

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD BE WORTH...
Ugh
SO YOU'RE JUST MAKING BASELESS SPECULATIONS ...
IF IT'S REAL, THEN THERE SHOULD BE A LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION FROM THE SHOGUN.
HM
UM... MAYBE?
I ONLY GOT A LITTLE GLIMPSE OF THE YAMADA POTTERY COLLECTION, BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF IT WAS KINUTA CELADON.
AHA!
BUT WHY WOULD THEY KEEP A PRICELESS TREASURE SURROUNDED BY SO MUCH JUNK?
IT WOULD BE LIKE HIDING A LEAF IN A FOREST!
?
I THINK THAT'S THE REASON WHY YAMADA YOJIROU WAS OBSESSED WITH COLLECTING POTTERY!


THE REAL REASON WHY YAMADA YOJIROU STARTED HIS COLLECTION...
WAS TO MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE EVER FOUND HIS FAMILY'S TREASURE!

IT FITS WHAT I HEARD FROM SUE-SAN...
OH, RIGHT, SUE-SAN IS YAMADA YOJIROU'S GRAND-DAUGHTER.
AND SHE SAID...



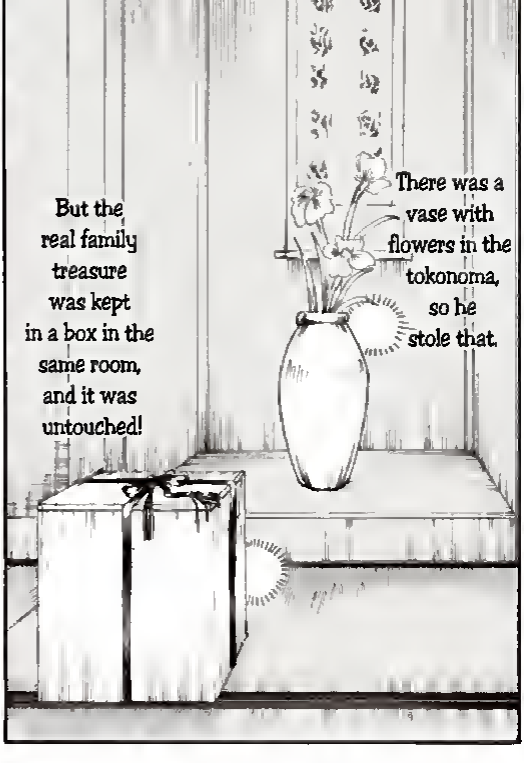

He'd inherited a successful tea plantation from his father, and he was a respected businessman.
She said that her grandfather was a serious, unflappable man.
SUE, DON'T YOU DARE!!
SHOCK
SNEAK
...YES, FATHER.
WAAHH!!
WAAHH!!
SHIMAO!
AS MY ELDEST SON, YOU WILL INHERIT THIS VASE WHEN I DIE...
BUT UNTIL THEN, NO ONE MAY TOUCH IT!!

GET OUT!! I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANYTHING!!
HEY, CAN YOU LEND ME SOME CASH?
Yojirou-san had an estranged younger brother, Yoritane.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN!!
COME ON, I KNOW YOU'VE GOT THAT FANCY VASE... YOU CAN AFFORD TO HELP ME OUT...
RIGHT?
YES, DEAR.
IF HE COMES BACK, DON'T LET HIM IN.
TCH!
SPIT

Yoritane-san's clumsy attempt to get money out of his brother had failed.

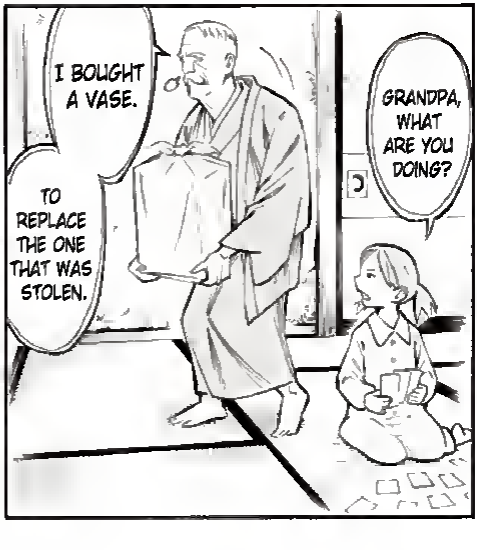
So he waited for a day when the family wasn't home...

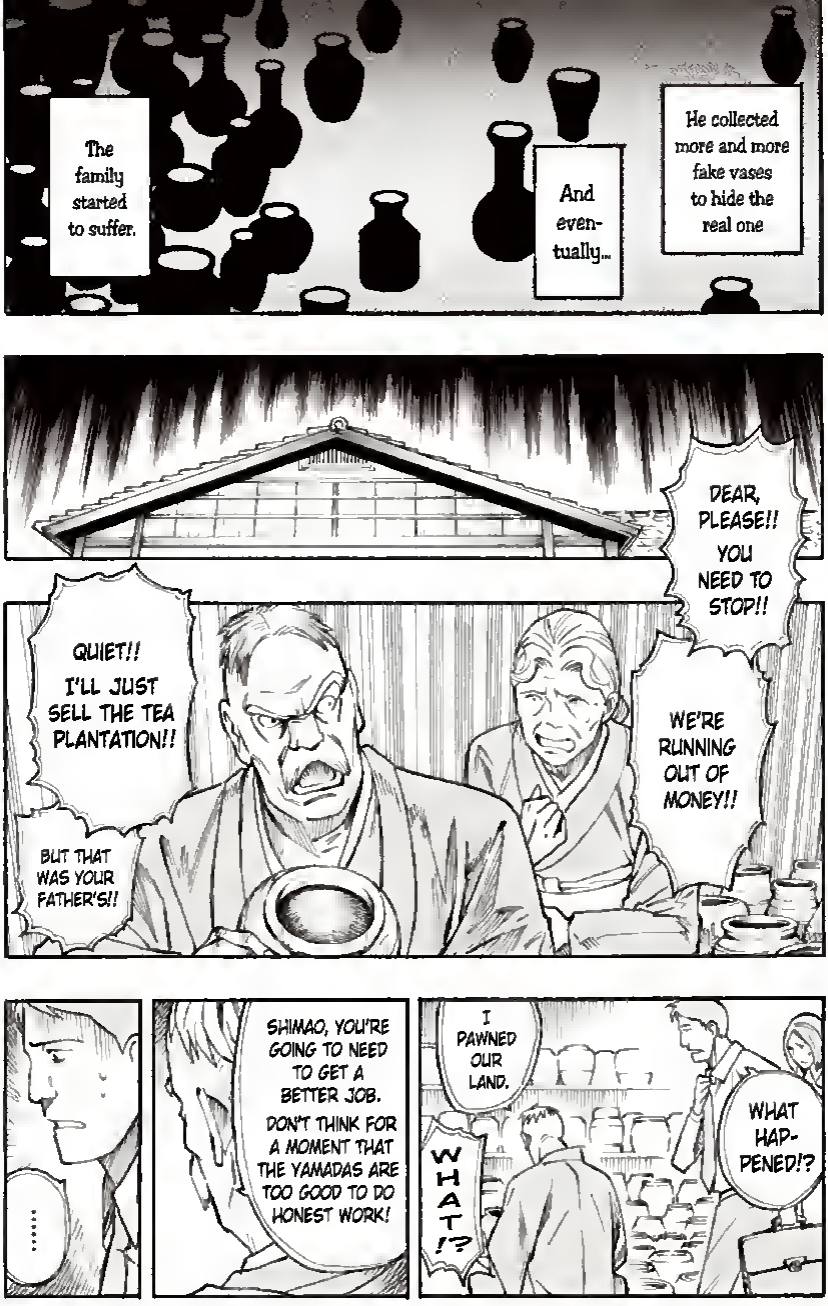
OOH...
HE JUST GAVE THE KEY TO A PROFESSIONAL THIEF.
BUT HE DIDN'T DO IT ON HIS OWN...
AND HE STOLE NEARLY EVERYTHING OF VALUE IN THE HOUSE.
BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT HE DIDN'T STEAL THE RIGHT VASE.
And he got arrested.
I MANAGED TO GRAB AN OLD VASE... I BET IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE!
But the thief bragged about his loot...
THE THIEF MADE A MISTAKE!
EH? BUT HOW?

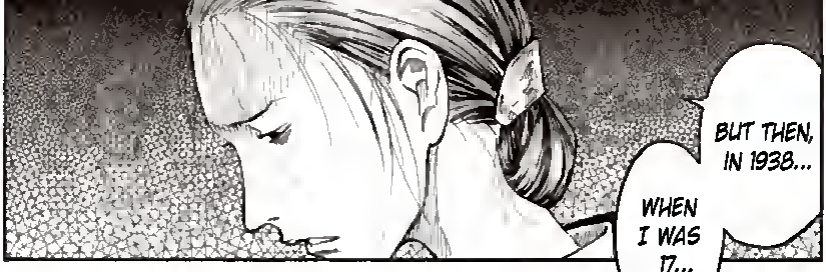

But the real family treasure was kept in a box in the same room, and it was untouched!
There was a vase with flowers in the tokonoma, so he stole that.

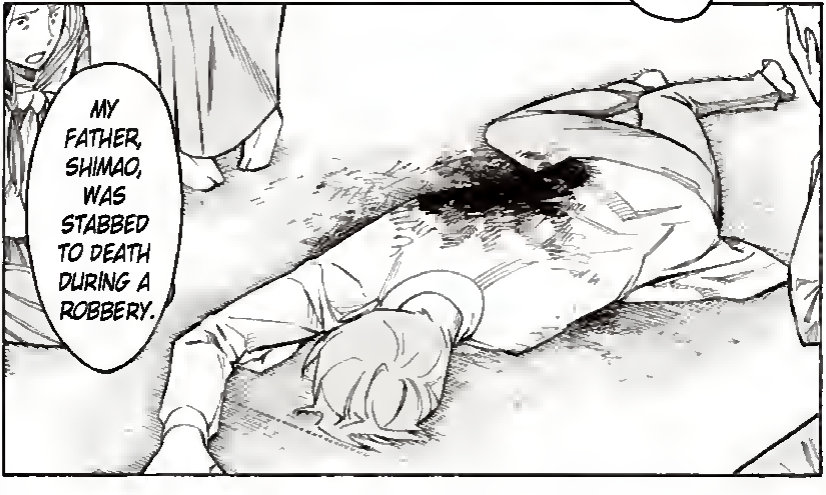
NOTE

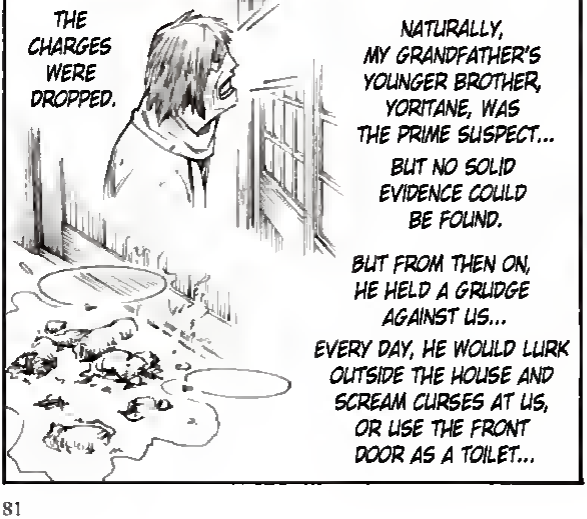
A tokonoma is an area of a formal Japanese room that's used to display flower arrangements, paintings, poetry scrolls, etc.

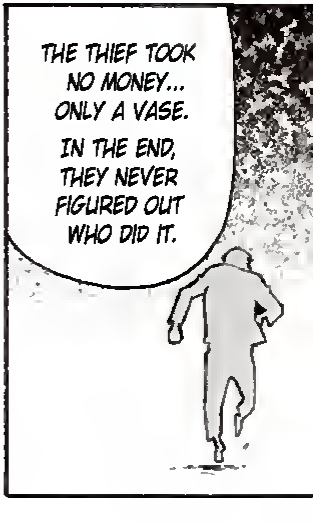


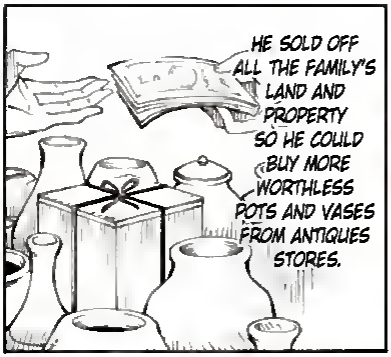

The family started to suffer.
And eventually...
He collected more and more fake vases to hide the real one
DEAR, PLEASE!! YOU NEED TO STOP!!
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF MONEY!!
QUIET!! I'LL JUST SELL THE TEA PLANTATION!!
BUT THAT WAS YOUR FATHER'S!!
.....
SHIMAO, YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO GET A BETTER JOB. DON'T THINK FOR A MOMENT THAT THE YAMADAS ARE TOO GOOD TO DO HONEST WORK!
I PAWNED OUR LAND.
WHAT!?
WHAT HAPPENED!?

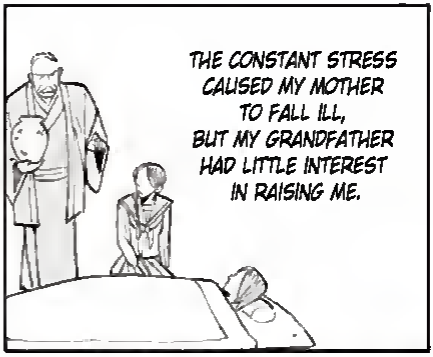

WHEN I WAS 17...
BUT THEN, IN 1938...

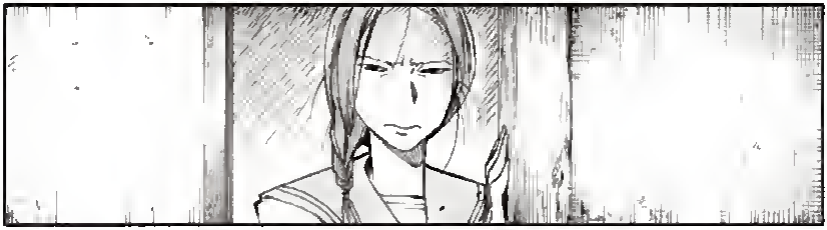

MY FATHER, SHIMAO, WAS STABBED TO DEATH DURING A ROBBERY.

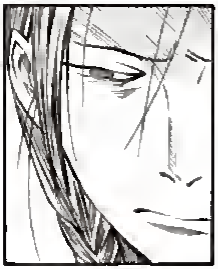

THE CHARGES WERE DROPPED.
NATURALLY, MY GRANDFATHER'S YOUNGER BROTHER, YORITANE, WAS THE PRIME SUSPECT...
BUT NO SOLID EVIDENCE COULD BE FOUND.
BUT FROM THEN ON, HE HELD A GRUDGE AGAINST US...
EVERY DAY, HE WOULD LURK OUTSIDE THE HOUSE AND SCREAM CURSES AT US, OR USE THE FRONT DOOR AS A TOILET...


THE THIEF TOOK NO MONEY... ONLY A VASE.
IN THE END, THEY NEVER FIGURED OUT WHO DID IT.

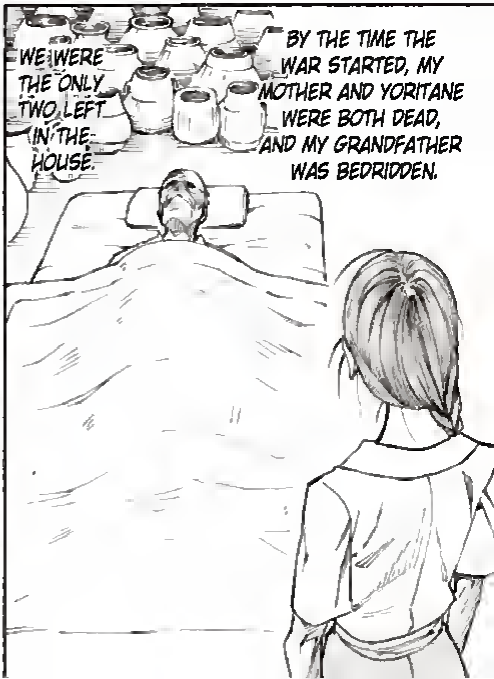

HE SOLD OFF ALL THE FAMILY'S LAND AND PROPERTY SO HE COULD BUY MORE WORTHLESS POTS AND VASES FROM ANTIQUES STORES.

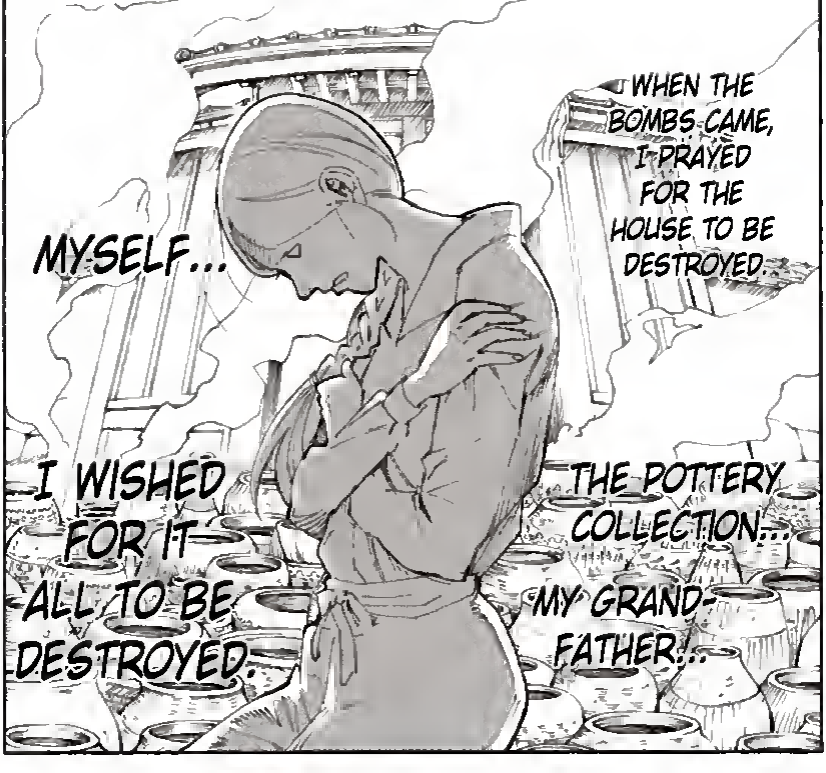

THE CONSTANT STRESS CAUSED MY MOTHER TO FALL ILL, BUT MY GRANDFATHER HAD LITTLE INTEREST IN RAISING ME.



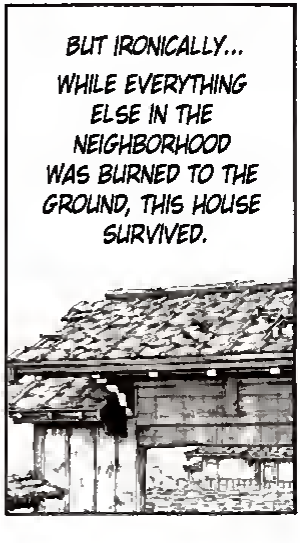


SUE...
I NEED MONEY.
I...
I NEED TO BUY POTS...

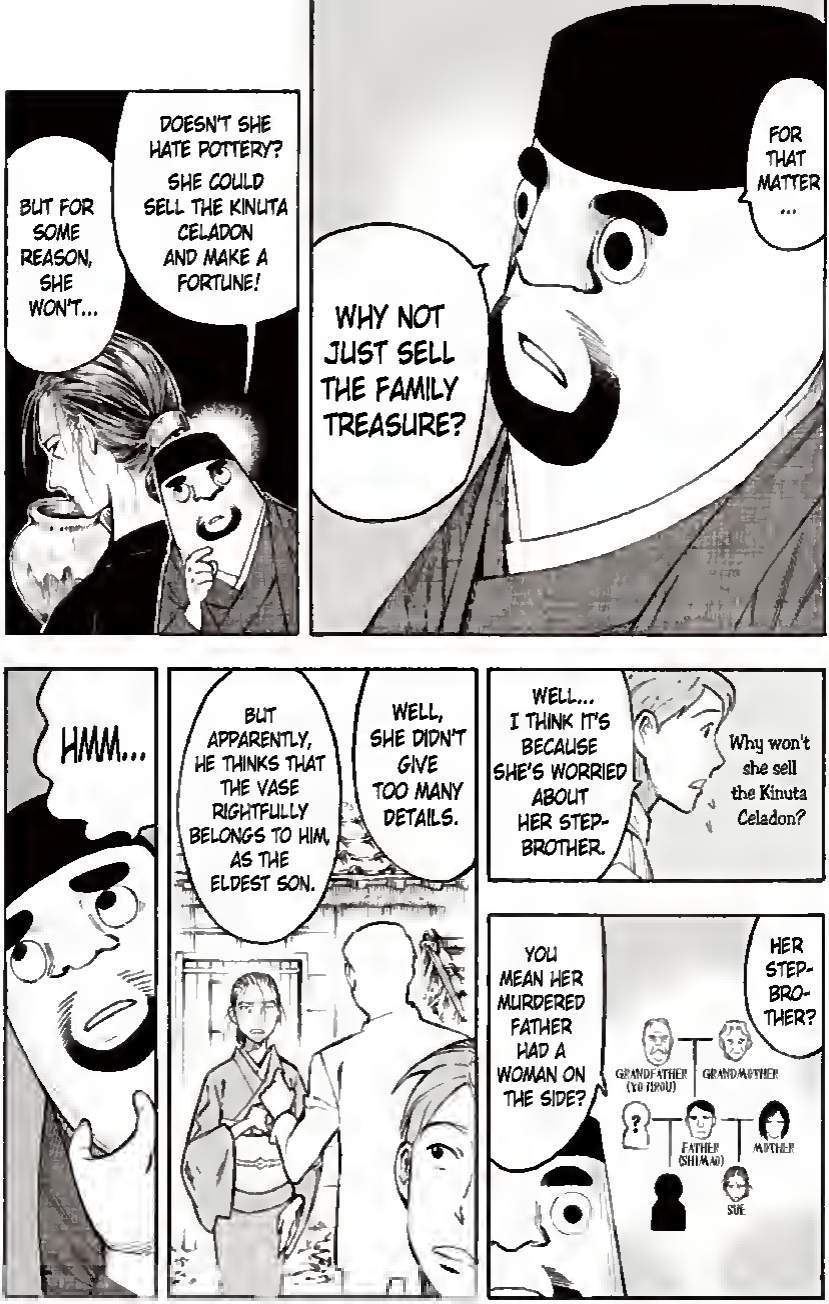

WE WERE THE ONLY TWO LEFT IN THE HOUSE.
BY THE TIME THE WAR STARTED, MY MOTHER AND YORITANE WERE BOTH DEAD, AND MY GRANDFATHER WAS BEDRIDDEN.

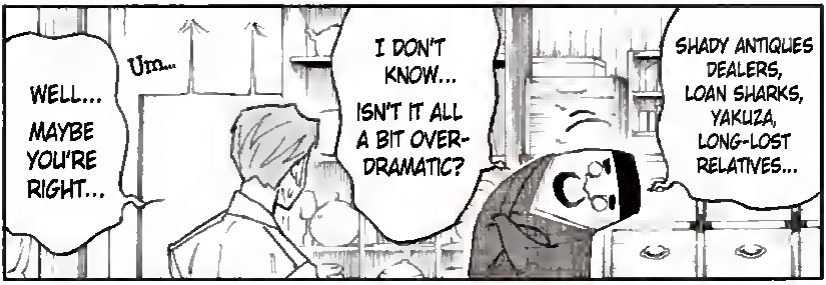

WHEN THE BOMBS CAME, I PRAYED FOR THE HOUSE TO BE DESTROYED...
MYSELF...
I WISHED FOR IT ALL TO BE DESTROYED.
THE POTTERY COLLECTION... MY GRAND-FATHER...

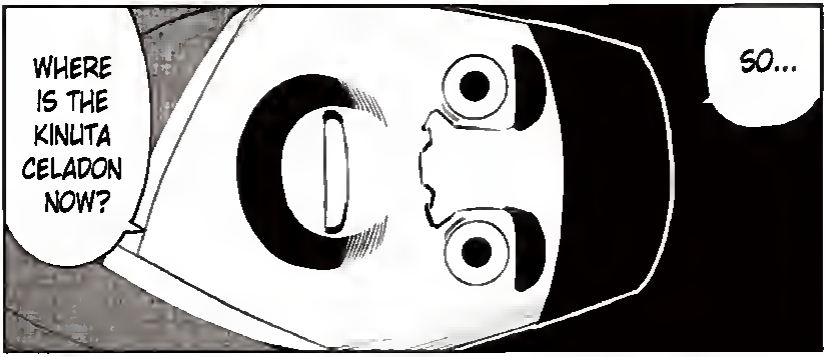
I... I SURVIVED SOMEHOW.
AND SO I WAS STUCK WITH MY GRAND-FATHER AND HIS DAMNED POTS...

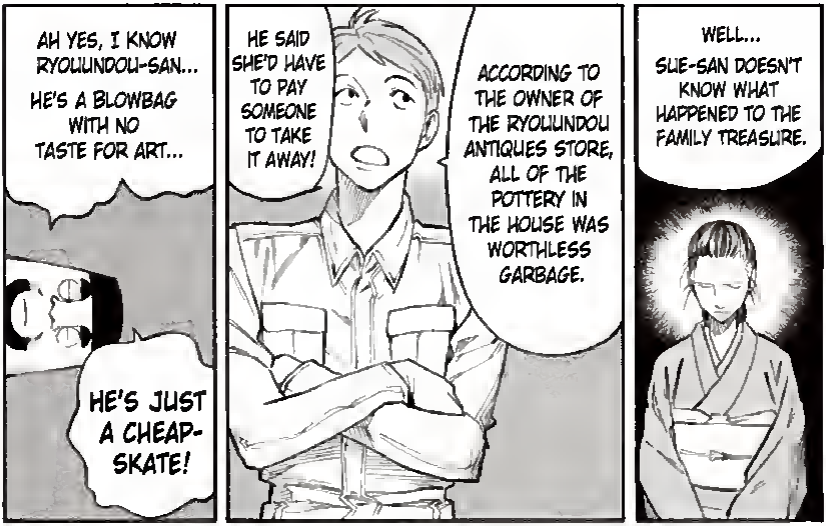

BUT IRONICALLY... WHILE EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND, THIS HOUSE SURVIVED.

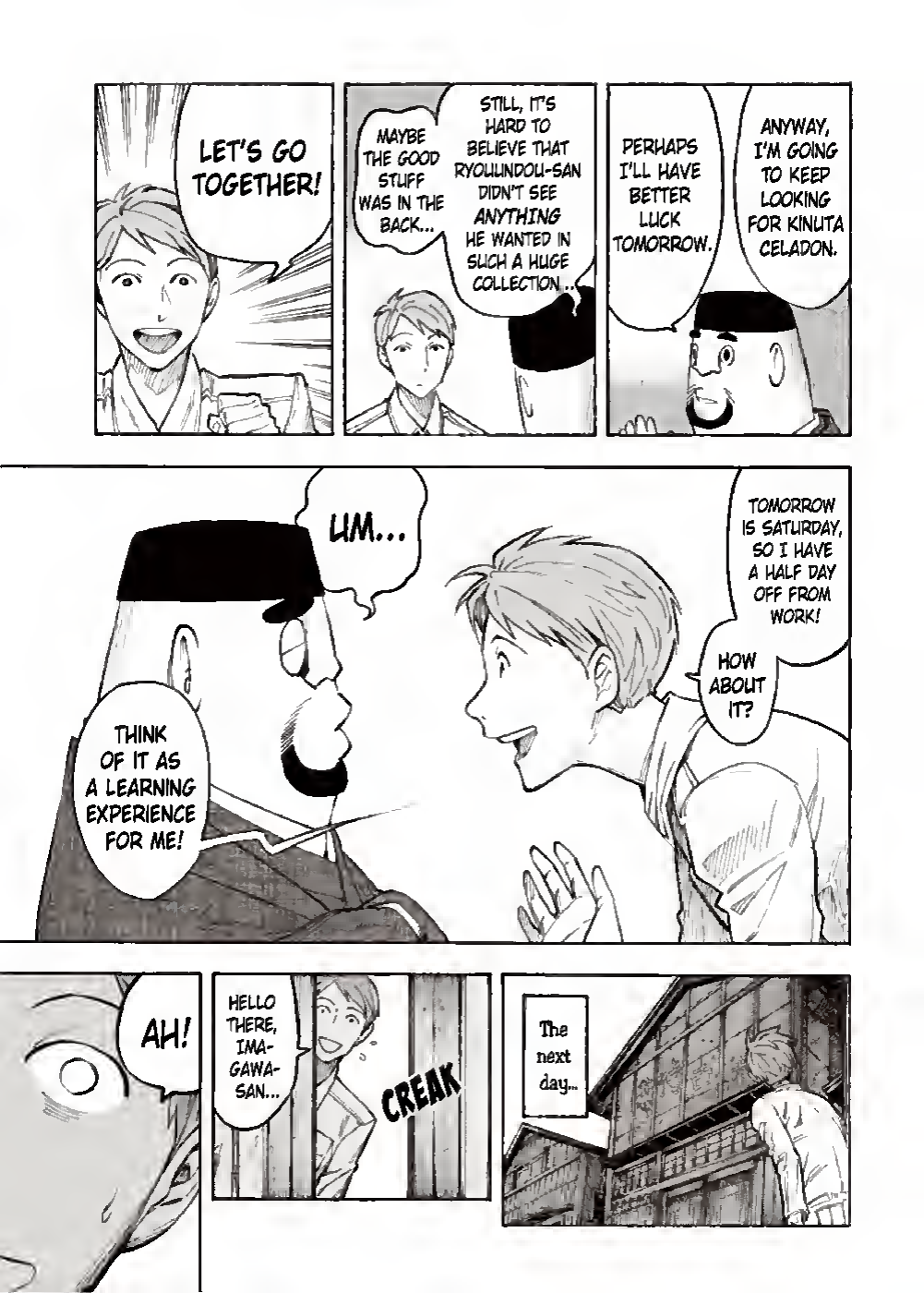
HUH? OH YEAH... THE YAMADA FAMILY IS IN DEBT TO LOAN SHARKS, AND THEY'RE PROBABLY MORE INTERESTED IN THE PROPERTY VALUE THAN IN OLD POTTERY.
WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST SELL THE HOUSE NOW?
BUT ...
I SEE... THAT'S QUITE A STORY.
I WAS AFRAID TO LEAVE, SO I ENDED UP TALKING TO SAE-SAN FOR A LONG TIME.
WE'RE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE.
BANG
BANG
BANG
THE BOSS IS GONNA BE PISSED! IF YOU CAN'T PAY UP, THEN SELL YOUR HOUSE!!
YAKUZA LOAN SHARKS FROM THE KANTOU DAIKOKU GANG SHOWED UP WHEN I WAS THERE...
LATELY, AOYAMA HAS BECOME A HIGH-CLASS AREA, SO SHE'D GET A GOOD PRICE.
SHE COULD JUST SELL IT LEGALLY...
MAYBE SHE'S HOPING THAT THE YAKUZA WILL MAKE A BETTER OFFER?
WELL ...
BUT IF SHE WAY PRAYING FOR THE HOUSE TO BE DESTROYED DURING THE WAR, THEN WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST GET RID OF IT?


DOESN'T SHE HATE POTTERY?
SHE COULD SELL THE KINUTA CELADON AND MAKE A FORTUNE!
BUT FOR SOME REASON, SHE WON'T...
FOR THAT MATTER ...
WHY NOT JUST SELL THE FAMILY TREASURE?
HMM...
BUT APPARENTLY, HE THINKS THAT THE VASE RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO HIM, AS THE ELDEST SON.
WELL, SHE DIDN'T GIVE TOO MANY DETAILS.
WELL... I THINK IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT HER STEP-BROTHER.
Why won't she sell the Kinuta Celadon?
YOU MEAN HER MURDERED FATHER HAD A WOMAN ON THE SIDE?
HER STEP-BRO-THER?
GRANDFATHER (YU TAKOU)
GRANDMOTHER
?
FATHER (SHIMAO)
MOTHER
SUE


SHADY ANTIQUES DEALERS, LOAN SHARKS, YAKUZA, LONG-LOST RELATIVES...
I DON'T KNOW... ISN'T IT ALL A BIT OVER-DRAMATIC?
Um...
WELL... MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...


SO...
WHERE IS THE KINUTA CELADON NOW?

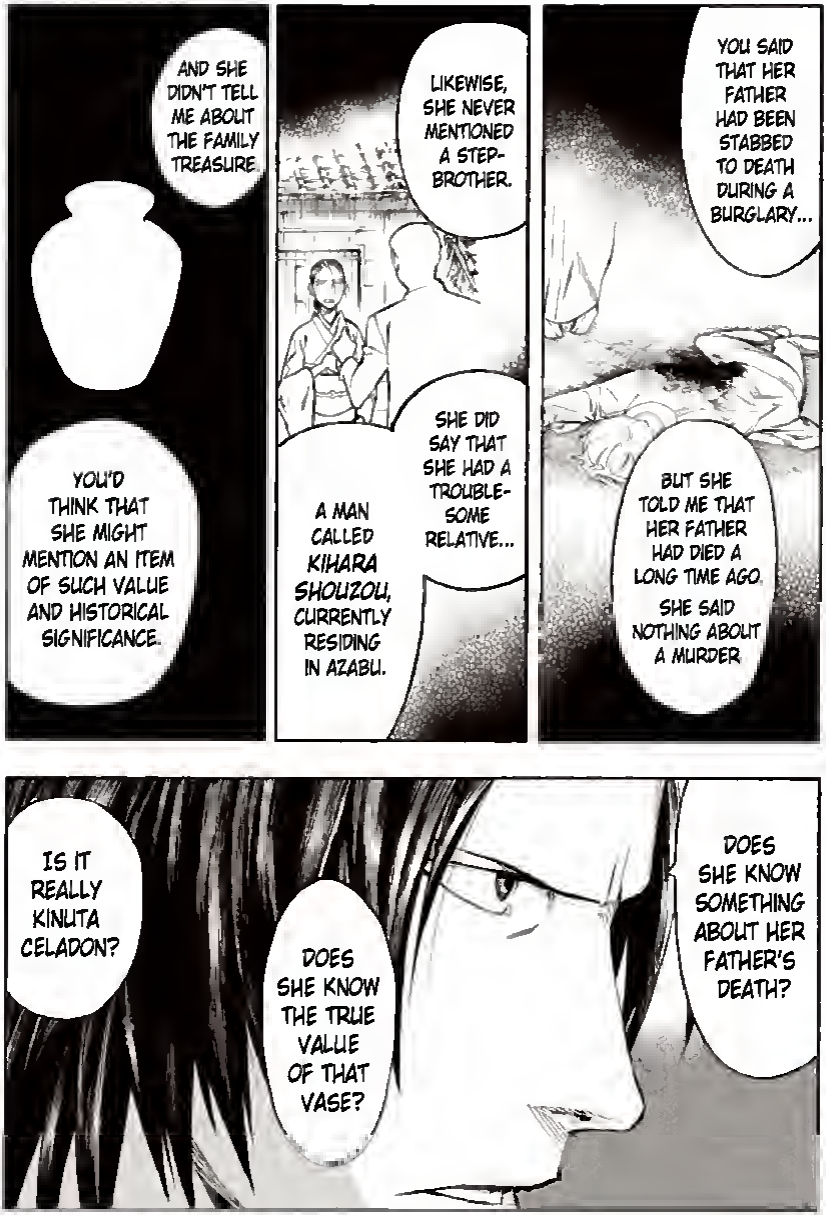

WELL... SUE-SAN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FAMILY TREASURE.
ACCORDING TO THE OWNER OF THE RYOUUNDOU ANTIQUES STORE, ALL OF THE POTTERY IN THE HOUSE WAS WORTHLESS GARBAGE.
HE SAID SHE'D HAVE TO PAY SOMEONE TO TAKE IT AWAY!
AH YES, I KNOW RYOUUNDOU-SAN... HE'S A BLOWBAG WITH NO TASTE FOR ART...
HE'S JUST A CHEAP-SKATE!


LET'S GO TOGETHER!
MAYBE THE GOOD STUFF WAS IN THE BACK...
STILL, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT RYOULINDOU-SAN DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING HE WANTED IN SUCH A HUGE COLLECTION...
PERHAPS I'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK TOMORROW.
ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO KEEP LOOKING FOR KINUTA CELADON.
UM...
THINK OF IT AS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ME!
HOW ABOUT IT?
TOMORROW IS SATURDAY, SO I HAVE A HALF DAY OFF FROM WORK!
AH!
HELLO THERE, IMA-GAWA-SAN...
CREAK
The next day...

YOU...

CH-CHUU-ZENJI-SAN...
SIGH
I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS.

TCH.
I HEARD THAT YOU WENT POKING AROUND THE YAMADA HOUSE ON YOUR OWN THE OTHER DAY.
IF YOU WANT TO LEAD THIS INVESTIGATION, THEN GO RIGHT AHEAD!
S-SORRY...
UM... WELL...
IF YOU ASSOCIATE WITH IDIOTS, YOU'LL BECOME AN IDIOT.
OH, DON'T BE SO HARSH.
HE'S HONESTLY INTERESTED.
BASED ON THE INFORMATION YOU RELAYED TO ME, IMAGAWA-KUN...
I THINK SHE'S HIDING SOME-THING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
Hmm...
WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THIS...
I NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT "SPIRIT" IS POSSESSING HER.
I NEED A PLAN.


AND SHE DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THE FAMILY TREASURE.
YOU'D THINK THAT SHE MIGHT MENTION AN ITEM OF SUCH VALUE AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.
LIKEWISE, SHE NEVER MENTIONED A STEP-BROTHER.
SHE DID SAY THAT SHE HAD A TROUBLE-SOME RELATIVE...
A MAN CALLED KIHARA SHOUZOU, CURRENTLY RESIDING IN AZABU.
YOU SAID THAT HER FATHER HAD BEEN STABBED TO DEATH DURING A BURGLARY...
BUT SHE TOLD ME THAT HER FATHER HAD DIED A LONG TIME AGO.
SHE SAID NOTHING ABOUT A MURDER
IS IT REALLY KINUTA CELADON?
DOES SHE KNOW THE TRUE VALUE OF THAT VASE?
DOES SHE KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT HER FATHER'S DEATH?

OH... I SEE...
YOU'RE NOBODY.
BECAUSE SHE HAD NOTHING TO LOSE AND NOTHING TO GAIN BY TALKING TO YOU.
BUT... SHE CONFIDED IN ME...
Huh? How can she be possessed by a spirit?
THAT'S THE BEST LIE YOU COULD COME UP WITH?
THIS WILL BE A PAIN...
Um... I SAID THAT I WORKED AT THE MACHIKOAN ANTIQUES SHOP...
S-SORRY...
WHAT SORT OF LIE DID YOU TELL HER?
LET'S JUST HOPE SHE DOESN'T GUESS THAT I'M ACQUAINTED WITH YOU.
om nom
ANY-WAY...
WHAT ARE YOU MOPING ABOUT?
You shouldn't be proud of being a good liar...
You sound like a con artist...

IT MAY BE THE CASE THAT SHE ONLY TOLD YOU A PARTIAL TRUTH BECAUSE THERE ARE TRUTHS THAT SHE DOES NOT WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE.
THERE IS DARKNESS IN HER HEART.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HER FAMILY TREASURE IS REALLY KINUTA CELADON.
HMPH!
ONCE AGAIN, I'M DOING THE HARD WORK WHILE THAT IDIOT DETECTIVE TAKES ALL THE CREDIT...

Darkness in her heart..?
See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil... but she spoke to me, didn't she?

SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

AL-
RIGHT.
ALRIGHT, WE'LL NEED TO USE ALL OUR MANPOWER.
IMAGAWA-KUN, YOU COME WITH ME.
I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP.
HM... I WONDER.
TAP
HUH?
I KNOW! GO BACK TO ENOKIZU'S PLACE.
BUT I SUPPOSE YOU WON'T JUST GO HOME.
AS FOR YOU... I DON'T ACTUALLY NEED YOU.
!
TCH ...
hm...

LET'S GO!
WHOOSH